

## GEORGE MAIRS

The Rev. George Mairs, who closed his life on the evening of April 10, <sup>1862</sup> was a lifelong resident of Argyle. Rev. George Mairs, Sr., was the first pastor of the United Presbyterian church of Argyle (then Associate Reformed). He came to this country from Ireland in 1793, and was the same year called to the pastorate of the Argyle church. His son, Rev. George Mairs, jr., was born in Argyle, in March, 1798, and was graduated at Union College in 1820. He studied theology for one year with Dr. John W. Mason in New York, and afterwards completed his course under the direction of his father. He was licensed by the Associate Reformed Presbytery of Washington, on the 5th of March, 1823, being then 25 years old. On the third day of September following he was ordained and installed as assistant and successor of his aged father, whose increasing infirmities had rendered him incapable of performing the full duties of his pastorate. For some years the father and son divided the labors of the pastorate between them,--the father conducting the preaching service in the morning and the son officiating in the afternoon. After the father's death, which occurred October 10, 1841, the son continued his ministry in the church until 1851, when, on account of his enfeebled health, he demitted his charge and was never after actively engaged in the work of his office. Rev. Dr. Schouler, in his history of the Argyle church, thus sums up the character and fruits of Mr. Mairs' pastorate: "The son, modeled after the father, and tried to carry out his ways and measures, as far as the changing circumstances of the times and people would allow. His pastorate was also successful. Peace and brotherly love continued. He was diligent in his pastoral labors and was much among his people. During his incumbency a congregational prayer meeting was established. During all the years of his retirement he lived with his family in the village of Argyle, in the midst of the people whom he had so long served and in the ripe old age was gathered to his father." The funeral was attended by a large congregation of people. The funeral service was under the direction of Rev. W. B. Shortt, with the following programme: Singing the 130th Psalm; reading of Scripture by Rev. William Bryant of the Presbyterian church Argyle; address by Rev. W. B. Shortt, U. P. church Cambridge; address by Dr. Alexander, Presbyterian church, Schenectady; closing prayer by Rev. G. M. Wiley, U. P. church, West Hebron.

Washington County Obituaries      Vol. 1   p. 70

Collection of newspaper obituaries on the  
N. Y. State Library.



Our Catalogue shows George Main's was graduated in 1820

The newspaper report of the 1822 Commencement lists him  
as graduating in that year.

Rev. George Mairs, of the Presbyterian Church, married Catherine Walker, daughter of James and Leak (Lytle) Walker, of Florida, Montgomery Co., New York. She died in Argyle, N. Y., leaving children: Thomas, Mary, Henrietta, Amelia and James W. A grandson of James Walker and James W. Mairs continued the mercantile business in Schenectady founded by their grandfathers.

Hudson-Mohawk Gen. & Fam. Memoirs  
v. 3 p. 1225  
Cuyler Reynolds



Rev. George Mairs, one of our oldest living graduates, is quietly spending the evening of his life at his home in Argyle, N. Y., amid the scenes of his youth and his life's work. He takes great interest in the prosperity of his Alma Mater. C. Feb. 1881

GEORGE MAIRS, '20,

born in Argyle, Washington Co., N. Y., June 5th, 1799.  
He studied Theology and was licensed to preach, March, 1823.  
He was ordained and installed, Sept., 1823, in the Associated Presbyterian church in Argyle, and remained there as pastor until 1851. He ministered to a large congregation with such wisdom and fidelity as to retain their unwavering attachment until, about twenty years ago, the infirmities of age admonished him to retire. The pastorate of father and son in the same church extended over a period of seventy years. His last illness was lingering, but painless.

He was a Republican.

He died April 6th, 1882, at Argyle, leaving two sons and two daughters.



JAMES L. MAIRS  
901 FAIRMOUNT AVENUE  
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

Union College.

Schenectady N.Y.

Gentlemen;

Being a descendant of  
George Mairs of the class of  
1826 or 27 I am anxious to  
get a list of members of his  
class and other early classes.  
Perhaps somewhere you have



short biographical sketches  
or class notes. I shall be  
very grateful for any assistance  
you can give me and shall  
be pleased to hear from  
you at 402 1st National  
Bank Bldg, St Paul, Minn.

Cordially yours

James L. Mairs.

note my reply  
w



July 8, 1932

Mr. James L. Mairs  
402 1st National Bank Bldg.  
St. Paul, Minn.

My dear Mr. Mairs:

The Rev. George Mairs was graduated from Union College in the class of 1820. Our account says that he had two sons and two daughters, but does not name them. Could you supply their names to us? What is your relationship to the Rev. George Mairs?

It is the intention of Union College to print a complete biographical catalog within a few years; and we are always glad to get data to add to our files.

There were about 80 men in the class of 1820, so you see it would involve considerable typing to furnish you sketches of their lives. We could arrange to have someone do this for you, if you wish to defray the expense. We enclose, however, a copy of a note about the Rev. George Mairs, which we are very glad to copy for you.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to Mr. Waldron



George Mairs

A.B.

1820



George Mairs

1820  
F.B.